

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

Backplane connector assembly 212 is mounted to backplane 210. Backplane connector assembly 212 includes multiple optical fiber connectors such as optical fiber connector 100 in FIG. 1. The optical connectors are held together by a support 214, here shown as a plate. In the preferred embodiment backplane assembly 212 also includes one or more latching modules 216. Latching modules 216 ~~16~~ allow a daughter card connector assembly 252 to be latched to a backplane.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 7 shows a side view of the tool 600. In this view it can be seen that beams 620 and 622 include forward portions 714 ~~710~~ and 716 ~~712~~. Beam 620 has a rearward facing surface 710 in the shape of a ramp. In contrast beam 622 has a rearward facing surface that presents an abrupt projection 712. These features are selected to allow tool 600 to be used to either insert or remove a connector.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

When tool 600 is used to insert a connector, tool 600 is oriented so that beam 620 goes against the surface of modules 310 and 312 that include projections 416 ~~614~~. Each of the modules 310 and 312 will fit between the opposing sidewalls of one of the modules of the tool ~~614~~. In this way the protective cover will be held in the tool with the rear surfaces of the modules can rest against the surface 718 of the tool modules. The tool may then be used to insert the protective cover into a backplane assembly. Sufficient force can be exerted on handle 610 to press the protective cover 300 onto the backplane connector.